

**MORGAN & MORGAN®**

# The 3M Military Earplugs Lawsuit

*A Guide*



# The 3M Lawsuit

The 3M Combat Arms double-ended earplugs were purchased by the U.S. military to solve a serious problem: Service-members getting hearing loss or damage. Conditions like tinnitus and complete or partial hearing loss in or both ears can be common in veterans.

As of 2017, more than 2.7 million veterans were receiving disability benefits for some kind of hearing loss or damage, and more than 20% of all vets who served between 2003 and 2015 are receiving disability benefits for hearing loss or damage.

The 3M earplugs were designed and marketed to the U.S. Department of Defense as a solution to this problem. The earplugs would securely fit inside the ears of service-members and prevent repeated loud noise from penetrating the ear canals and causing hearing damage.

The only problem is that they didn't work. The 3M earplugs simply didn't securely seal inside the ear canal. This led service members operating in noisy environments to suffer serious and often permanent hearing loss or damage.

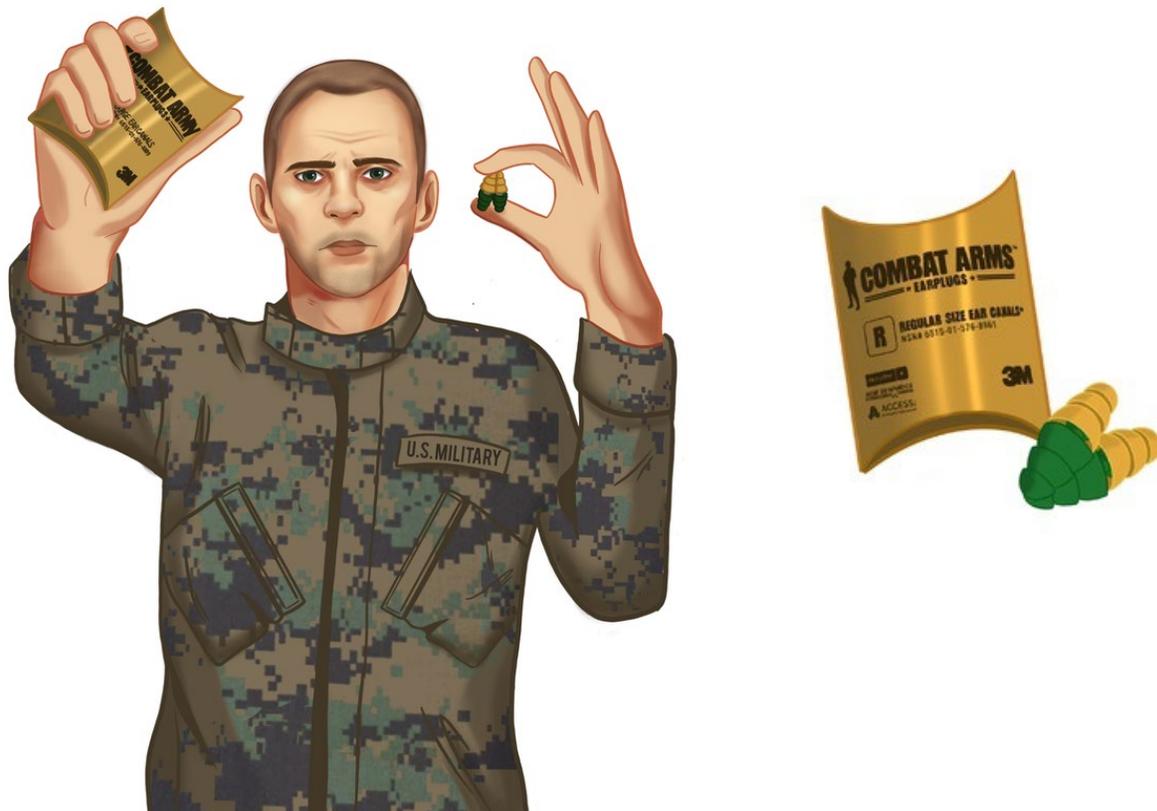
Morgan & Morgan attorneys are fighting for justice and compensation on behalf of veterans whose hearing was damaged while wearing 3M earplugs. Lawsuits against 3M are in progress across the country, and if you're a veteran who suffered hearing loss or damage that can be attributed to 3M's earplugs, you may be eligible for compensation, too.



# A Potentially Dangerously Faulty Product

There is serious evidence suggesting that the manufacturers knew about the failures long before they became public. 3M has already paid a \$9.1 million settlement to the Justice Department to resolve allegations that they knew about the defects in the product and failed to warn the military. **As part of the deal, 3M did not admit any liability and the Justice Department did not make a determination of liability.**

The government's lawsuit alleged that 3M employees knew about defects in the earplugs that prevented it from forming a tight seal as early as 2000, while the company was still selling them to the military as late as 2015. The earplugs are double-tipped with tips of slightly different size, and 3M claimed that by using one tip or the other, every single user would be able to find a perfect seal. Scores of civil lawsuits filed on behalf of service members make similar allegations.



# Holding Them Accountable

We don't think 3M should be able to get away with this. If you or a loved one served in the military and suffered hearing injuries while wearing 3M earplugs, we want to fight for you. You can call today or anytime for a free consultation, and if we take your case we will go to work for you with zero upfront costs or fees. You only pay if we win for you.

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*We've recovered more than \$7 billion for our clients to date, and we want to for you too.*

We're the largest personal injury law firm in the country, and we're proud to put those resources to work for our members of the military. We've recovered more than \$7 billion for our clients to date, and we want to for you too. Call today.



# FAQ

## ***Who can file a claim against 3M for hearing loss?***

Any current or former U.S. Military service-member who was issued and used 3M earplugs while on duty, and who later suffered any form of hearing loss or damage. This includes full or partial hearing loss in one or both ears, as well as conditions like tinnitus.

## ***How Can a Lawyer Help?***

Any current or former U.S. Military service-member who was issued and used 3M earplugs while on duty, and who later suffered any form of hearing loss or damage. This includes full or partial hearing loss in one or both ears, as well as conditions like tinnitus

## ***I'm already receiving veterans disability payments for my hearing loss, can I still file a lawsuit?***

Absolutely. Your veterans disability payments from the government have nothing to do with the harm potentially inflicted against you by a negligent manufacturer. Living with hearing loss or damage can cause pain and suffering and a reduced quality of life, and you deserve to be compensated for that.

## ***I don't think I can afford to hire a lawyer. What should I do?***

With Morgan & Morgan, there's no such thing as a person who can't afford to hire a lawyer. Our firm operates on the contingency-fee model, which means we only get paid if we win for you. No upfront fee, no being charged for any kind of costs or fees during the case. So no matter your financial situation, you can always afford top quality legal representation.

# Who We Are



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*We aim to give more people a chance at justice .*

John Morgan founded Morgan & Morgan in 1988. The firm's first office was located in Orlando, Florida, and was made up of three attorneys, two paralegals, and a receptionist. Over the past 30 years, we've been fortunate enough to hire more than 500 attorneys and open 50 offices across the country, empowering us to reach and help even more people. We have a support staff of about 3,000 employees. These paralegals, case managers, case evaluation specialists, receptionists, and more make sure that our clients are taken care of every step of the way.

Our attorneys are dedicated to fighting for the best possible outcome for those who trust us with their cases. With that goal, we've won over \$7 billion for our clients. These wins represent so much more than just a dollar amount, though. They represent the wellbeing of our clients, which is something we take deep pride in protecting.

# Practice Areas

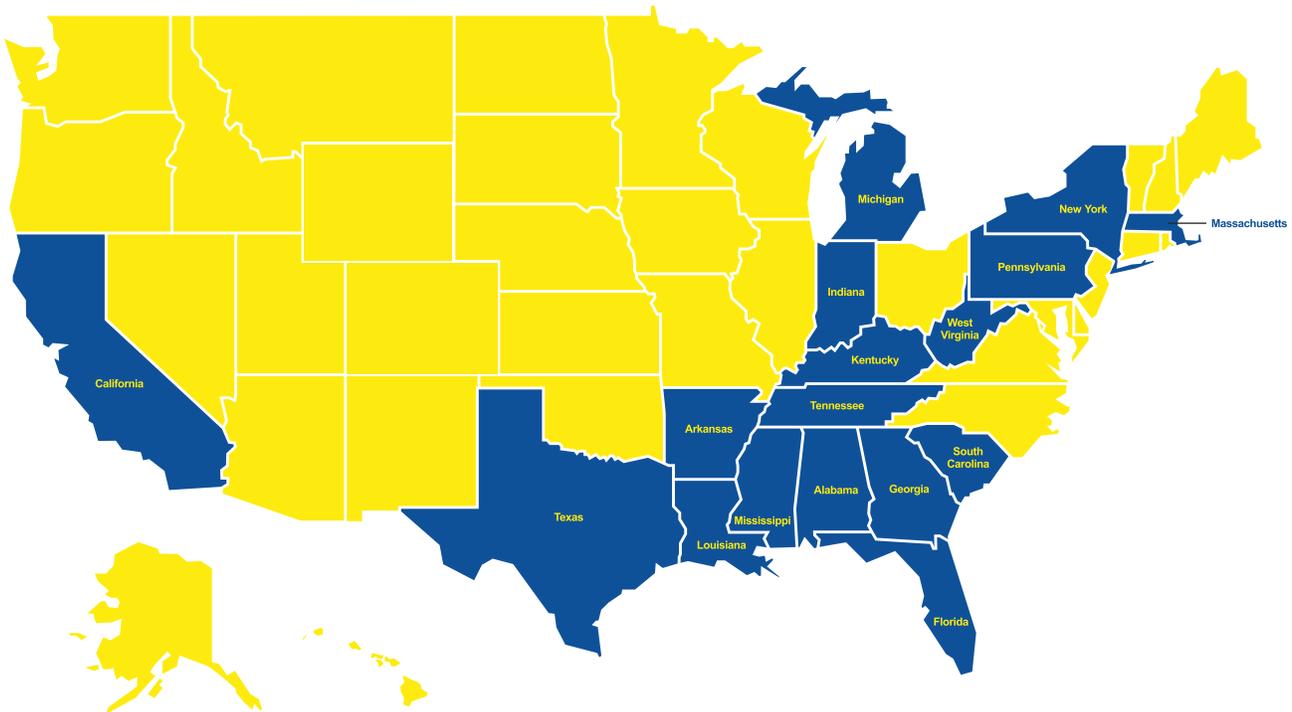
*Everywhere for Everyone.*

- Birth Injuries
- Brain Injuries
- Breach of Warranty
- Burn & Fire Injuries
- Business Litigation
- Business Interruption Claims
- Car, Truck and Motorcycle Accidents
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Civil Rights
- Class Actions & Mass Torts
- Construction Accidents
- Deaf & Disability Rights Unit
- Dog Bites/Animal Attacks
- Employee Rights
- FCRA
- Medical Malpractice
- Mesothelioma
- Negligent Security/Premises Liability
- Nursing Home Abuse
- Product Liability
- Property & Life Insurance and AD&D
- Sex Trafficking
- Slip & Fall
- Social Security Disability
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Train Accidents
- Veterans' Benefits
- Whistleblower/Qui Tam
- Workers' Compensation
- Wrongful Death

## Office Locations

### ● OFFICE LOCATIONS

Note: We handle cases nationally, working with local counsel in states without our physical presence.



# Attorney Growth & Successes

2019

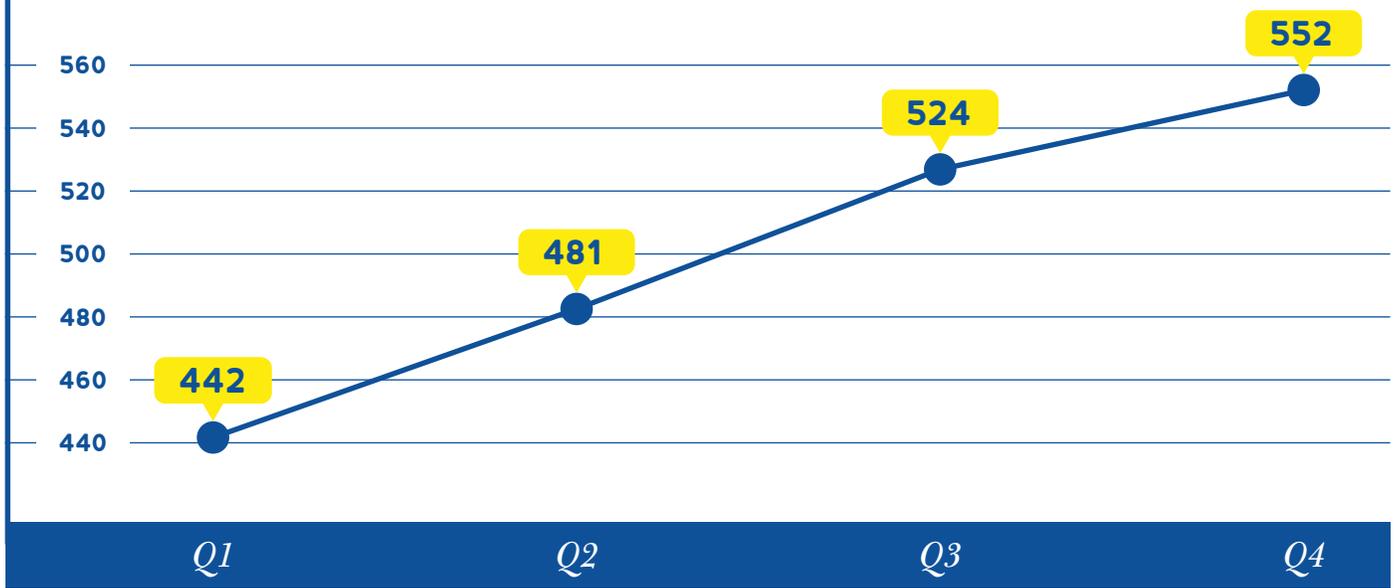
Total Amount Recovered: **OVER \$1 BILLION**

2019

Total Cases Resolved: **50,000**

2019

Attorney Growth:



# What People Say About Us

I was able to contact Morgan & Morgan via their online form from the emergency room on the day of my accident. Someone called me the next morning and set up rehab and therapy appointments right away. The following day they came to my home to begin my case. They are swift, professional and customer service-focused. After my accident, I was nervous about driving. I was very grateful that they were so accommodating.

**- Z.A., ATLANTA, GA**

I couldn't be happier with the service and the professionalism of your staff I was very satisfied with the outcome of my case. The team always returned my telephone calls in a timely manner and shared valuable as well as valid information. They were very professional and maintained a positive attitude. I would definitely use your services again if I was faced with a situation that required an attorney or legal advice and I would also refer your agency to others. Although my situation was unfortunate, I was glad to have your team on my side to get me through the difficult times. Again, I say

THANK YOU.

**- KATHY, MEMPHIS, TN**

They are the most caring and personal attorneys you could ever have on your side. They genuinely make you feel like helping you in every way they can is their goal and main priority. I'd highly recommend this firm to anyone in need. They treat you as if you were a part of their family and are always seeking the best for the client.

**- JANET, LOUISVILLE, KY**

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*Although my situation was unfortunate, I was glad to have your team on my side to get me through the difficult times. Again, I say thank you.*

I emailed my questions and concerns and had doubt that anyone would contact me in the next 24 hours. I emailed them around 8:30 pm. I received a call the very next morning and the representative explained that after I answered her questions she would turn it over to a lawyer and then they would contact me. She answered all my questions and concerns. She gave me hope that I did the right thing. She said I should hear something in the next few days after a lawyer has time to review. I will not have to pay anything unless they win a settlement. I will receive all the information soon as to what will happen next. It has been less than 24 hours and everything is set in motion.

**- TAMMY, ORLANDO, FL**

I would just like to say that, regardless of my injuries and all that I am currently going through daily, my attorney was absolutely wonderful to me as far as listening to my concerns and thoughts and always asking if I needed anything. He made sure that he let me know that I could call him at any time for whatever I wanted to discuss regarding my case! He is a true God send and I simply love his attitude and the attention he gives to clients. From day one, this firm has gone above and beyond the call of duty making certain that I was reached out to in a very timely manner. You all ran circles and holes around the first firm! I would recommend you to family, friends, and complete strangers!

**- ALICIA, JACKSON, MS**

Unbelievably organized, responsive, and probably the most effective process-oriented group of people I've ever seen. Their preparation for mediation and trial is beyond comprehensive. Across two cases and three years, not once did anything fall between the cracks. Everyone I came into contact with exemplifies professionalism; they quickly resolved insurance issues and spent time educating me about everything affecting my cases. I trust Morgan & Morgan and I am grateful for everything they did for me. I recommend them without reservation and will miss working with them now that my civil suit is settled.

**- JERRI, JACKSONVILLE, FL**

# In the News

At Morgan & Morgan, everything we do — from the cases we take on to our wins in the courtroom — makes an impact. That’s why in 2019, our legal actions, settlements, and verdicts were covered by premier national and international media outlets like The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, and CNN, as well as local media outlets.

Here are some of our cases that made headlines in 2019.

## Restoring Basketball Glory

In 2018, the NCAA imposed a penalty on the men’s basketball team at the University of Louisville (Kentucky) for alleged rules violations. They had their 2013 NCAA tournament win, 2012 Final Four appearance, and individual player statistics vacated and removed from the record.



John & Matt Morgan

With the help of John Morgan, our firm’s founder, the team’s players sued the NCAA and last year reached a confidential settlement. The players had all their statistical achievements and personal honors restored.

Coverage appeared on ESPN, Fox Sports, and in the Associated Press, among others.

## Morgan & Morgan Attorney Named Cybersecurity MVP

Morgan & Morgan’s John Yanchunis was named a 2019 MVP by Law360 — the premier national legal news service — in recognition of his work protecting the rights of consumers harmed by data breaches.

Last year, John achieved a notable victory when he and his team reached a \$117 million settlement with web giant Yahoo after a data breach compromised billions of user accounts.

## Major Settlement in MA Gas Explosions Case

In September 2018, a series of explosions ripped through the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, towns of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. These explosions were caused by excess gas pressure in poorly built, poorly installed, and poorly maintained natural gas lines owned and operated by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.

More than 40 homes experienced explosions and fires as a result, which caused severe damage and injury, including one death. Morgan & Morgan's Frank Petosa took the lead in the lawsuit representing the victims, and in July 2019, a \$143 million settlement was reached.

Coverage appeared in The Washington Post and The Boston Globe, and was provided by the Associated Press.

### Florida Powerhouse

Although we're a nationwide firm, Florida is still Morgan & Morgan's home base. This year, the firm was recognized for its achievements in the Sunshine State as a Law360 "Florida Powerhouse."

With over 350 attorneys in the state and more than two dozen offices, Morgan & Morgan has made an indelible name for itself there through litigation and impact.

### Fighting for a Zipline Accident Victim

A 10-year-old boy from Lakeland, Florida, was seriously injured when his zipline harness disconnected and he fell 20 feet to the concrete below. On behalf of his family, Morgan & Morgan is pursuing legal action against the operators of the zipline facility, alleging employee error due to improper training and safety procedures.

Coverage appeared on the ABC, FOX, NBC, and CNN news channels, among others.

#### *Featured In*

The New York Times

The Washington Post

WALL STREET JOURNAL

POLITICO

USA TODAY

AP Associated Press

billboard

Newsweek

THOMSON REUTERS

CNN

Forbes

abc

FOX

NBC

BUSINESS INSIDER

TODAY

ESPN

**30**

Years

**\$7**

Billion Recovered

**\$0**

Upfront Fees

No matter your financial situation, you deserve the kind of legal representation it takes to go up against massive corporations like 3M. If you or a loved one were harmed by their negligence, you deserve justice and compensation. We want to help you fight for it.

Morgan & Morgan has been there for the people against the powerful for more than 30 years, and we've recovered more than \$7 billion to date for clients just like you. Call today. Your case review is always free, and you'll never have to pay a penny unless we win for you.

**MORGAN & MORGAN<sup>®</sup>**